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LONG-TIME GAMBINO CAPTAIN, LOUIS VALLARIO, PLEADS GUILTY
IN U.S. COURT TO FREDERICK WEISS MURDER CONSPIRACY

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that LOUIS VALLARIO, a/k/a "Big Louie," a/k/a "Big Lou," a long-time Captain in the Gambino Organized Crime Family of La Cosa Nostra, pled guilty today in Manhattan federal court to conspiring to murder Frederick Weiss in order to maintain and increase VALLARIO's position in the Gambino Family. Weiss, a businessman, was gunned down outside his home in Staten Island on September 11, 1989. Evidence at previous trials established that John Gotti, then the Boss of the Gambino Family, had ordered the murder because Gotti mistakenly believed that Weiss was cooperating with the Government against the Gambino Family.

VALLARIO pled guilty to a two-count superseding information filed today, which charged him with one count of conspiracy to murder Weiss in aid of racketeering and one count of concealing the Weiss murder from federal law enforcement authorities.

Prior to his guilty plea, VALLARIO had been charged, along with five other Members and Associates of the Gambino Family,

including Gambino Family Boss PETER GOTTI, Gambino Soldiers EDWARD GARAFOLA, FRANK FAPPIANO, a/k/a "Frankie Fap," and THOMAS CARBONARO, a/k/a "Huck," and Gambino Associate JOHN MATERA, in a wide-ranging racketeering Indictment that includes charges of four murders, an attempted murder, an additional murder conspiracy, the extortion of various individuals and businesses, loansharking, labor bribery, witness tampering, and illegal gambling.

Specifically, among other crimes, the Indictment charges: (1) FAPPIANO and GARAFOLA with the September 11, 1989, murder of Weiss; (2) FAPPIANO, GARAFOLA, and CARBONARO with the August 8, 1990, murder of Edward Garofalo, a Gambino Associate and the cousin of defendant EDWARD GARAFOLA; (3) FAPPIANO with the January 1997 murder of union official Frank Parasole; (4) CARBONARO and MATERA with the April 28, 1998, murder of Frank Hydell; and (5) GOTTI, GARAFOLA, and CARBONARO with conspiring to kill Salvatore Gravano, a/k/a "Sammy the Bull," the former Underboss of the Gambino Family.

The trial of the remaining defendants, GOTTI, GARAFOLA, CARBONARO, FAPPIANO, and MATERA, is scheduled to begin June 1, 2004, before United States District Judge RICHARD CONWAY CASEY.

The two-count superseding information to which VALLARIO pled guilty carries a total maximum penalty of 13 years' imprisonment. VALLARIO, who is 62 years old, has been detained since his arrest in this case on June 20, 2002, and he is scheduled to be sentenced by Judge CASEY on July 22, 2004, at 4 p.m.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of

Investigation and the New York City Police Department in this investigation, and stated that the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorneys JOHN M. HILLEBRECHT, MICHAEL G. McGOVERN, and JOON H. KIM are in charge of the prosecution.

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